COMIC SHOP NEWS™

1166

Amazing Spider-Man 609

SHAKEN, STIRRED AND PACKING A SEMI-AUTOMATIC

CINDERELLA

FROM FABLETOWN WITH LOVE

A 6-ISSUE MINISERIES
FROM THE PAGES OF
FABLES™

WRITTEN BY CHRIS ROBERSON

ART BY SHAWN MCMANUS

COVERS BY CHRISSIE ZULLO

NOVEMBER 2009

VERTIGO 51

COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS FOR MATURE READERS VERTIGOCOMICS.COM

COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE 1-888-COMIC BOOK

© 2009 BILL WILLINGHAM AND DC COMICS. TM BILL WILLINGHAM VERTIGO ® DC COMICS.

Guggenheim Says Goodbye With a Reilly Big Story Arc

A few months ago, *Marc Guggenheim* revealed that he was leaving the regular ***Amazing Spider-Man*** creative team after ***Amazing Spider-Man #610.*** But he's not going to fade away quietly; instead, he's leaving on a high note with a story arc that complements the new ***Spider-Man: Clone Saga*** miniseries.

"Who Was Ben Reilly," a three-parter that ends next week, takes readers back in time to revisit the "lost years" of Ben Reilly's life, while also putting Peter Parker in plenty of peril.

Guggenheim explained that story grows out of events depicted in ***Amazing Spider-Man Annual #36.*** "We pick it up several months after the events of the annual. The annual basically outed Peter Parker to the Raptor character. As we saw in the annual, the Raptor sees Peter Parker and says, 'After all these years of being in hiding, Ben Reilly has finally surfaced!' Obviously, Raptor is incorrect in his assumption, but that's part of the fun of the story. Raptor is going after Peter Parker for actions that he believes Ben Reilly took.

"He's still under the impression that Peter is Ben Reilly. And the entire arc takes place in two time frames. One time frame is the present, and the other time frame is the past – the 'lost years' – which is when Ben Reilly was sort of out in exile on the West Coast.

"Part of the fun of the story is that the annual set up this notion that Ben Reilly killed Raptor's family. And one of the mysteries of the story is, is that true? Did Ben Reilly really do this?

"One of the things you can play around with when it comes to the Ben Reilly character is, he's Spider-Man. At least, he was Spider-Man for a time. But there's a moral code to him that's not as fully formed as Peter Parker's moral code. So if I were to pitch a story where you suspect Peter of killing a family, you would never buy that. You would never believe for a moment that he'd be capable of that. But with Ben Reilly, it's a distinct possibility."

What led Guggenheim to depart ***Amazing Spider-Man*** after this arc? "I'm just too busy," he said. "The thing about writing ***Spider-Man*** that's different from writing a regular monthly book is that, even though my issues of ***Spider-Man*** don't come out once a month, in order to meet the schedule, I have to produce a script once a month. And normally, that's not a problem for me. But with ***Spider-Man***, I have to not only write a script every month, but I have to read four other writers' scripts and plots and outlines and lettering on top of everything else, in order to keep up and make sure my stuff is consistent with their stuff, and that I'm setting things up and teeing things off and that kind of thing. And there are email chains going on literally every day. So the problem was that was a job on top of a job, on top of my other jobs.

"So I just reached a point where I was forced to think about cycling off the books. And when I started doing this Ben Reilly storyline, I thought, this is a good note for me to leave on. This is an arc that's been getting some buzz, I've had fun writing it, I'm please with the way it's turning out, so why not leave on a high note... It just worked out that Ben Reilly is going to be the right time to leave."

What will Guggenheim miss most about the ***Spidey*** gig? "The people. I'm very glad to have worked with all the other Webheads. That and working with Steve Wacker and Tom Brevoort have really been the highlights for me. It's just a great group of people. More than anything, that's what I'll miss, is those daily interactions with the people behind the scenes on Spider-Man."

Amazing Spider-Man #608 & 609, the first two parts of "Who Was Ben Reilly?" are in comic shops right now. ***Amazing Spider-Man #610,*** the finale to the arc and Guggenheim's farewell issue, is slated for release next week.

by Vaneta Rogers (with Cliff Biggers)

Comic Strips: The Missing 10

The addition of ***The Complete Bloom County Library*** to IDW's superlative comic strip reprint line fills a major gap in a discerning collector's library—but there are still a few significant omissions that we'd love to see make a comprehensive reprint appearance in 2010. Here are ten of the most notable strips that are still Missing In Action:

10 - Brewster Rockit: Space Guy by *Tim Rickard.* This zany *Tank McNamara meets Futurama* look at the misadventures of the captain and crew of the spaceship R.U. Sirius has run for five years, with only one collection ever offered, featuring less than a year's worth of the strip.

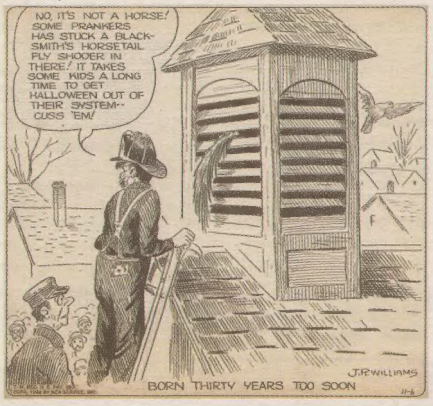
9 - The Norm by *Michael Jantze.* The struggles of ad designer Norm were the focus of this clever strip that ran from 1996 through 2004. Norm's direct narration of his own life's events should have a strong appeal to fans of ***The Office.***

8 - Luann by *Greg Evans,* a delightful strip focusing on Luann DeGroot, her family, and her high school friends. The strip blends high school humor, family foibles, and human interest light drama; its almost-quarter-century run is largely out of print in book form, which is a surprising oversight.

7 - Ink Pen by *Phil Dunlap.* Okay, it's only four years old—but a comic strip about unemployed cartoon and comic book characters is a perfect fit for comic book fans, isn't it? Dunlap's humor seems to indicate that he's a comics reader with a a finger on the pulse of current comics trend.

6 - Barney Google & Snuffy Smith by *Billy DeBeck & Fred Laswell,* the hillbilly-humor strip that began in just a year after WWI ended. For the first fifteen years, the strip focused on Barney and his goo-goo-googly eyes—but a 1934 visit to the Appalachians brought Snuffy Smith to the forefront, with Barney eventually leaving the strip entirely. The humor may seem quaint today, but in its glory days the strip inspired a hit song, films, animated features, and more.

5 - Out Our Way by *J.R. Williams.* This quaint look at small-town and Western life, which debuted way back in 1922 and continued until Williams' death in 1957 (and even continued after that, although later creators were never able to master Williams' blend of wry insight and engaging illustration) frequently contrasted the media's idealized view of the West with the mundane realities. Williams linked some of his wry single-panel commentaries with such captions as "Heroes Are Made, Not Born," "Why Mothers Get Gray," and "Born Thirty Years Too Soon." Williams' striking, stylish brush work makes every panel a beauty.


NO, IT'S NOT A HORSE! SOME PRANKERS HAS STUCK A BLACK-SMITH'S HORSETAIL FLY SHOOER IN THERE! IT TAKES SOME KIDS A LONG TIME TO GET HALLOWEEN OUT OF THEIR SYSTEM-- CUSS 'EM!
J.R.WILLIAMS
BORN THIRTY YEARS TOO SOON

4 - Curtis by *Ray Billingsley.* The title character's struggles in school and at home are the source of humor in this, one of the few syndicated strips spotlighting an African-American family. ***Curtis*** would be right at home in comic shops, since he enjoys sneaking a comic or two into his classroom... much to the dismay of his teacher, Mrs. Nelson.

3 - For Better or For Worse by *Lyn Johnston.* This more-or-less-real-time family strip, blending humor and human interest, had an impressive 29-year run of original strip before Johnston started reworking the earliest strips in a series of "newruns" that rework some of the earliest strips. The long-running story elements and the engaging characters make this a strip that well deserves to be collected. While most of the strips have been published in numerous trade paperback editions, many of them are out of print today—and that's a real shame!

2 - Funky Winkerbean by *Tom Batiuk.* It began in 1972 as a high school humor strip, grew into a human interest series as the characters age, then made two remarkable jumps forward: one, in 1992, took the cast into their adulthood, stressing the human interest angle; the other, in 2007, took the characters ten years further into the future, blending character-driven storylines and "high school the next generation" humor. Very few of the collections are still in print, and large runs of the series were never compiled. A strip with a history that runs more than a third of a century, frequent comic book references, assists by *John Byrne* and guest appearances by *Tony Isabella*—this should be a natural for any publisher!

1 - Blondie by *Chic & Dean Young.* Hard to believe that one of comics' oldest and most popular strips still doesn't have a comprehensive collection. *Dean Mullaney* told ***CSN*** that IDW will be producing a couple of volumes of early strips; if they do well, a comprehensive run might be forthcoming. Let's hope so—***Blondie*** has become a part of American popular culture that deserves a permanent place on comic strip collectors' bookshelves!

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Incorruptible Human Nature

For several months, *Mark Waid* has explored the nature of villainy in ***Irredeemable,*** the story of a superhero turned bad. Now Waid explores the inverse in ***Incorruptible,*** the story of a villain turned superhero!

Illustrated by *Neil Edwards*, ***Incorruptible*** focuses on super villain Max Damage, who had an epiphany the day The Plutonian destroyed Sky City. That day, when The Plutonian turned his back on humanity, Max Damage decided to step up. Now Max Damage has changed his name to Max Daring and turned from his formerly selfish ways. However it's not always easy to turn your life around...

"While you don't need to be reading ***Irredeemable*** to enjoy this new series, ***Incorruptible*** continues that complex study of caped morality at the end of the world," Managing Editor *Matt Gagnon* said. "Readers will be shown a shockingly different perspective of The Plutonian's world, where a super-villain, pushed by an insurmountable force, dares to be ***Incorruptible.***"

Incorruptible #1, which features 50-50 covers by *John Cassaday* and *Tim SAle* with a 1-for-10 incentive variant by *Jeffrey Spokes*, debuts in December.

CSNsider

•The ***Sinestro Corps Mini Neon Sign*** solicited in the most recent ***Previews*** catalog will be resolicited; DC indicated that the wrong image was shown with the product announcement.

•Marvel is adding six-page Cable backup stories by *Duane Swierczynski & Steve Dillon* to ***Psylocke #1*** and ***Dark X-Men #1,*** boosting the pagecount for each book to forty pages.

•Meanwhile, Marvel is trimming the pagecount for ***X-Factor #50, S.W.O.R.D. #1,*** and ***X-Men: Origins—Iceman*** to forty pages from the originally announced 48 pages.

•Boom Studios' classic Disney comics relaunch got off to a strong start: their first offering, ***Mickey Mouse & Friends #296,*** sold out immediately after release and is returning to print in a second printing (AUG098163) salted to reach comic shops in mid-November.

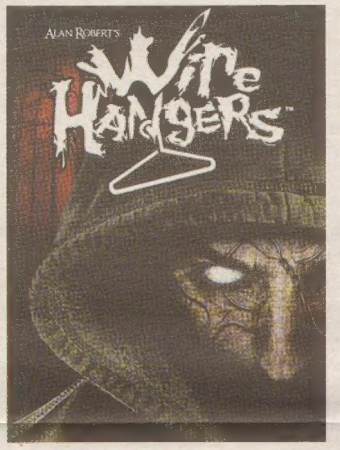
•*Rusty Haller,* creator of "Ace and Queenie" (an anthropomorphic storyline featured in the anthology ***Furrlough)*** and illustrator whose work appeared comics as ***The Flintstones, Heathcliff, Alf, Count Duckula, Danger Mouse, Looney Tunes,*** and ***Animaniacs,*** passed away in his sleep on September 29th at the age of 45.

•*Jim Lee* has been tapped to supply the art

for one of two covers for ***Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 #1;*** *Federico Dallocchio* is supplying the art for the second cover, and each cover can be individually ordered. Wildstorm is also offering a 1-for-10 videogame art variant cover; look for all three in mid-November.

•***Cla$$war,*** the *Rob Williams-Trevor Hairsine-Travel Foreman* superhero saga published by Com.X, has been optioned for film by Mandeville Films, the same company that transformed *Robert Venditti's* graphic novel ***Surrogates*** into a feature film starring *Bruce Willis.*

•Over at newsarama.com, *Dan DiDio* discussed DC's plans for the Milestone characters, who are now a part of the DCU. "We do have a two-part prestige series coming out called ***Milestone Forever,*** which wraps up and involves a lot of storylines that existed from the original stories involving those characters. And that's in production right now, and we'll hope to have it out pretty soon. Also, Static will be front and center in ***Teen Titans,*** in a story arc that moves into Dakota. So we're excited about that as well." DiDio went on to explain that ***Milestone Forever*** will be written by *Dwayne McDuffie* and will feature work by "a number of the artists who were involved in the original Milestone series when they were first introduced."



Getting the Hang of Comics

Alan Robert may have made his rep as a musician with Life of Agony and Spoiler NYC, but he's going from band member to solo artist with his first comic book, ***Wire Hangers.*** Robert is both writer and artist of the horror-conspiracy miniseries, which is slated to debut early next year.

Don't assume that Robert is one of those dilettantes who wants to dabble in comics; it turns out that he actually studied cartooning under *Walter Simonson* at the School of Visual Arts in New York City, where he attended on scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Best known for being the primary songwriter behind Life of Agony's critically acclaimed ***River Runs Red*** concept album, Robert is also an accomplished artist whose illustrations and designs have appeared on merchandise, ad campaign,s and websites for multi-platinum rock acts such as 3 Doors Down, Puddle of Mudd, and Shinedown.

In ***Wire Hangers,*** which will debut with a 32-page ad-free first issue, a series of abductions are plaguing New York, leaving no one safe. When Anna Davis, a feisty young female reporter, goes undercover to try and snag the big exclusive, she stumbles upon clues that lead to what could be the most disturbing government conspiracy of our time. Pill-popping detectives, corrupt secret agents, and a mysterious, disfigured homeless man are all interconnected in this horrific tale of revenge and redemption.

"I've wanted to tell this story for as long as I can remember," Robert said. "I came up with the ***Wire Hangers*** concept a few years back, when Life of Agony was on the road supporting Ozzy Osbourne. It has haunted me ever since! Whenever we were touring or in the recording studio, I would find myself sketching out characters on the back of lyric sheets and leaving myself voicemail messages with scene dialogue.

"By the time I presented the idea to IDW earlier this year, the story was completely fleshed out. Visually, it's dark and gritty with tons of textures and atmosphere. The artwork really sets a tone for the series and plays an equal part in telling the story.

"I really can't express how excited I am to finally see this idea come to life. I've been a huge comic book fan since I was just a kid and went to art college in the hopes of becoming a penciler one day. During my graduation year, LOA landed the record contract with Roadrunner to record River Runs Red and once it came out, I found myself touring full-time and focusing on my music career. So, for me, all these years later—to finally create my own original comic series is a dream come true..."

Wire Hangers is slated for March 2010 release.

SPIDER-MAN BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

TALK, MISTER!
WHY DID YOU SPY ON ME?
HOLD IT, SANDMAN!
I JUST DID IT FOR MY BOSS!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-15
©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
YEAH? WHO'S HE?
HIS NAME'S BIGSHOT!
standfang: © aol.com
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM

COMIC SHOP NEWS
Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
©2009 Comic Shop News, Inc. All Rights Reserved

EDITORS Cliff Biggers
Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
wbatty@csnsider.com

www.csnsider.com
twitter.com/csnsider

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in January

Michiyo Hayano & POP adapt and update *Lewis Carroll's* classic tale in ***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland: The POP Wonderland Series.*** This 40-page children's storybook adapts the novel in an engaging pastel palette and an anime-influenced art style.

Randy Stradley & Rick Leonardi continue the ever-popular clash between Aliens and Predators in ***Aliens Vs. Predator: Three World War,*** a six-issue miniseries. A centuries-old interstellar conflict threatens humanity's very existence as a long-lost Predator clan stakes its claim for galactic dominance, intent on exterminating its rival clan, the selfsame trophy hunters who have plagued Earth's history and every world they have touched. And if the advanced technology and military precision of this new threat weren't enough, they have an even more terrifying weapon at their disposal—Aliens, weaponized and under their malefic control. This series ties together story threads introduced in the original ***AvP*** series and new ***Aliens*** and ***Predator*** storylines, setting the stage for the most epic AvP brawl ever!

Juan Díaz Canales & Juanjo Guarnido's anthropomorphic noir series ***Blacksad*** returns to comic shops in 2010 after far too long an absence. ***Blacksad,*** a full-color 184-page hardcover that is the first of three volumes in the works, introduces private investigator John Blacksad, who is up to his feline ears in mystery as he digs into the backstories behind murders, child abductions, and nuclear secrets against a 1950s era backdrop rife with socio-political elements of the period.

Mike Mignola, John Arcudi, & Guy Davis continue the story of the BPRD in ***BPRD: King of Fear,*** a five-part miniseries that picks up after the defeat of the mystic Memnan Saa, as the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense—on the outs with the United States government after the bloodstained rescue of Liz Sherman—embark to the Ural Mountains, the site of ***BPRD: Hollow Earth,*** to put the frog menace to rest once and for all. Meanwhile, Kate Corrigan heads to Hunte Castle in Austria, where Hellboy killed the Conqueror Worm, on her own rescue mission—to save ectoplasmic special agent Johann Kraus, possessed by the ghost of Lobster Johnson.

Joss Whedon returns to write ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #31,*** a special standalone issue. After Willow unearths giant Tibetan goddesses to help in the fight against Twilight and his disposable soldiers, the Slayers are forced to retreat when the goddesses go AWOL and attack indiscriminately, leaving it up to Buffy to make her last stand on a battlefield covered in the bodies of friends and foes.

Dark Horse adds to their growing line of GelaSkins protective skins for laptops and iPhones with new designs featuring ***Bettie Page at the Beach, I Heart Dark Horse,*** and ***Dark Horse Black and White,*** along with iPhone-only offerings featuring ***Bettie Page Mint*** and ***Dark Horse- Mike Mignola.***

Mass Effect 2 lead writer *Mac Walters* reveals an essential moment in the life of Commander Shepard, the galaxy's greatest hero, in ***Mass Effect: Redemption,*** a four-part limited series co-written by *John Jackson Miller* and illustrated by *Omar Francia.* ***Mass Effect 2*** begins with the disappearance of Commander Shepard. The story of what happens next—exclusive to these comics—will have the commander's companion Dr. Liara T'Soni undertake a deadly mission of extraordinary importance in the Milky Way's lawless Terminus Systems.

When the Mesmo Delivery truck rolls into town, a heap of trouble is sure to follow, as readers will see in *Rafael Grampa & Marcus Penna's* ***Mesmo Delivery,*** a kinetic, bloody romp starring Rufo, an ex-boxer; Sangrecco, an Elvis impersonator; and a ragtag crew of overly confident drunks who pick the wrong delivery men to mess with.

Writer and director *Christopher "mink" Morrison* and legendary artist *Yoshitaka Amano* join forces to craft an unforgettable tale of destiny, danger, and hard-boiled sorcery in ***Shinjuku,*** a 160-page hardcover featuring over a hundred original paintings by Amano! In the year 2020, bounty hunter Daniel Legend finds himself tracking a quarry of a different kind: his long-lost sister. Armed only with his wits, his gun, and a mysterious postcard, Daniel makes his way to the heart of the seedy Shinjuku district of Tokyo, where a clash between two underworlds—the criminal and the infernal—threatens the very fabric of reality.

Solomon Kane battles evil once again in ***Solomon Kane: Death's Black Riders,*** a four-issue miniseries by *Scott Allie & Mario Guevara.* Taking place after the events in ***The Castle of the Devil,*** this new series delves deep into the horrors scattered throughout Germany's Black Forest. When Kane comes across gypsies being terrorized by roving bandits, he's not sure what's worse—the bandits who wish to rob and rape innocent travelers or the evils that spew forth from the forest, intent on killing every man and woman around!

Dark Horse collected volumes include:

- ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season Eight Volume 6: Retreat,*** collecting ***Buffy #s 26-31.***
- ***Hellboy Volume 9: The Wild Hunt TP,*** collecting the eight-issue miniseries along with an extensive sketchbook section from Mignola and *Duncan Fegredo.*

- ***Indiana Jones Omnibus: The Further Adventures of Indiana Jones Volume Three TP,*** collecting more tales from the Marvel run (including the official adaptation of ***The Last Crusade***), some of which feature art by *Steve Ditko.*
- ***Star Wars: Legacy Volume Eight—Tattooine TP,*** collecting ***Star Wars: Legacy #s 37-41.***
- ***Tarzan Archives: The Jesse Marsh Years Volume 5 HC,*** collecting the ultra-hard-to-find Dell ***Tarzan #s 23-28*** by *Gaylord DuBois & Jesse Marsh.*
- ***Turok, Son of Stone Archives Volume 5 HC,*** collecting ***Turok #s 25-30*** by *Paul S. Newman, Alberto Giolitto,* and others.
- ***Werewolves on the Moon: Versus Vampires TP,*** collecting the three-issue miniseries.

©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
stanzlanz @ aol.com

CSN TOP COMIC

ADVENTURE COMICS #4 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
Geoff Johns (W); Jerry Ordway (A)
(DC SEP090100 $3.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT #5 (OF 8)
Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis (A)
(DC SEP090092 $3.99)

BOOSTER GOLD #26 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
Dan Jurgens & Matt Sturges (W); Dan Jurgens, Mike Norton, & Norm Rapmund (A)
(11/11 DC SEP090103 $3.99)

DOOM PATROL #4 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
Keith Giffen (W); Justiniano & Livesay (A)
(11/4 DC SEP090105 $3.99)

GREEN LANTERN #48 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
Geoff Johns (W); Doug Mahnke & Christian Alamy (A)
(11/25 DC SEP090096 $2.99)

GREEN LANTERN CORPS #42 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
Peter J. Tomasi (W); Patrick Gleason & Rebecca Buchman (A)
(11/11 DC SEP090098 $2.99)

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #39 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
James Robinson (W); Mark Bagley & Rob Hunter (A)
(11/25 DC SEP090107 $3.99)

OUTSIDERS #24 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
Peter J. Tomasi (W); Fernando Pasarin & Jay Leisten (A)
(11/18 DC SEP090113 $3.99)

REBELS #10 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
Tony Bedard (W); Andy Clarke (A)
(11/11 DC SEP090110 $3.99)

SUPERMAN/BATMAN #66 (BLACKEST NIGHT)
Scott Kolins (W/A)
(11/18 DC SEP090109 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
There are an awful lot of dead characters in the DCU... but they seem disinclined to stay buried! As if ***Blackest Night*** hasn't terrorized the DCU sufficiently already, the horror of Nekron and his scheme shifts into high gear in November as the storyline expands to include seven tie-ins as well as ***Green Lantern, Green Lantern Corps,*** and the ***Blackest Night*** miniseries itself. Now we know who's behind the return of the DCU's dead... and the heroes now know that they're fighting not only for their lives, but also for their *afterlives*!

Why Should You Care?
Geoff Johns continues to mastermind comics' biggest event of the decade—and now he's letting a few of his friends join him on his sepulchral playground as the storyline extends its undead reach much deeper into the DCU. (Oh, and did we mention that DC is offering an unprecedented power ring promotion in conjunction with all of these *Blackest Night* tie-ins?)

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #612
Mark Waid (W); Paul Azaceta (A)
(11/18 Marvel SEP090402 $3.99)

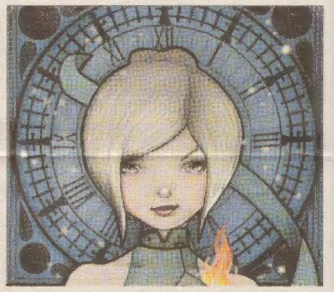
What's the Scoop?
Spidey's villains get an ominous updating in "The Gauntlet," and the first villain to undergo a shocking redefinition is Max Dillon, aka Electro.

Why Should You Care?
Mark Waid reminds us that, garish costumes notwithstanding, few heroes have a rogues gallery more threatening and potentially deadly than Spider-Man's. In the early days, Lee and Ditko set Spidey in a pretty dark and twisted world... and now Waid takes us back to those roots.

BATMAN/DOC SAVAGE SPECIAL #1
Brian Azzarello (W); Phil Noto (A)
(11/11 DC SEP090139 $4.99)

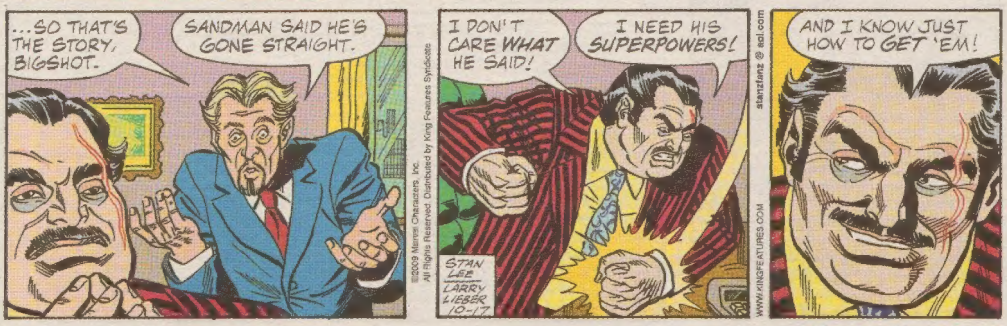
What's the Scoop?
Doc Savage is back in action in a world that's not quite his 1930s New York, nor is it the modern era. Instead, he exists in a world that's an amalgam of the two—a world without superheroes, a world in which only all-too-human heroes like Doc Savage, Batman, the Spirit, and the Blackhawks stand against evil.

Why Should You Care?
This oneshot will pave the way for a miniseries starring Doc Savage and other non-superpowered heroes... and if the rumors are true, we may see another shadowy hero making an appearance before it's all over!



CINDERELLA: FROM FABLETOWN WITH LOVE #1 (OF 6)
Chris Roberson (W); Shawn McManus (A)
(11/4 Vertigo/DC SEP090224 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?
When supernatural artifacts from the Homelands begin surfacing in the modern world, it's up to Cinderella, Fabletown's best kept (and best dressed) secret agent, to stop the illegal trafficking. But can Cindy foil the dark plot before Fabletown and its hidden, exiled inhabitants are exposed once and for all?


...SO THAT'S THE STORY, BIGSHOT.
SANDMAN SAID HE'S GONE STRAIGHT.
I DON'T CARE WHAT HE SAID!
I NEED HIS SUPERPOWERS!
AND I KNOW JUST HOW TO GET 'EM!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-17
©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved Distributed by King Features Syndicate.
stanzlarry @ aol.com
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM

CS: NOVEMBER

Why Should You Care?

One of the most popular characters from the *Fables* franchise gets her own sexy miniseries... what's not to love?

DARK X-MEN #1 (OF 5)

Paul Cornell (W); Leonard Kirk (A)

(11/11 Marvel SEP090474 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Norman Osborn is keeping what's left of his mutant team alive. Now Mystique, Dark Beast, Weapon Omega, and Mimic are the public face of mutants in an Osborn world... but what does Nate Grey have to do with it?

Why Should You Care?

Paul Cornell & Leonard Kirk take the Dark X-Men into the next phase of their existence in this book that picks up in the aftermath of *Utopia*.

DEATHLOK #1 (OF 7)

Charlie Huston (W); Lan Medina (A)

(11/4 Marvel SEP090422 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Marvel's ultimate cyborg returns in this near-future tale of a near-future soldier in a world where war is a spectator sport, a deadly explosion, and a cyber-enhanced warrior who learns that his new mission is more than he ever signed up for.

Why Should You Care?

Charlie Huston & Lan Medina bring back one of Marvel's most powerful concepts from the 1970s—and believe it or not, they've made it better with a dash of 21st century technology and a heaping helping of 21st century cynicism..

DR. HORRIBLE ONE SHOT

Zach Whedon (W); Joelle Jones (A)

(11/18 Dark Horse SEP090009 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

How did the young, brilliant Dr. Horrible succumb to the allure of a life of crime? Find out in this offbeat spinoff from the cult-fave *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog.*

Why Should You Care?

Joss Whedon's clever, quirky spoof of comic clichés makes its comic book debut courtesy of Whedon's Brother, Zack—an accomplished screenwriter in his own right—and not only is Dr. Horrible here, but so is his sidekick Moist, his love interest Penny, and his lifelong adversary Captain Hammer.

IMAGE UNITED #1 (OF 6)

Robert Kirkman (W); Erik Larsen, Todd McFarlane, Rob Liefeld, Whilce Portacio, Mac Silvestri, & Jim Valentino (A)

(11/25 Image SEP090264 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

What menace could prove so ominous that it would take the combined superhero might of the Image Universe to stand against it? Find out in this remarkable crossover that unites Image's greatest superstars—both fictional and creative!

Why Should You Care?

Talk about your all-star projects! *Robert Kirkman* supplies the story, while the art is a jam session involving Image founders *Erik Larsen, Rob Liefeld, Todd McFarlane, Whilce Portacio, Marc Silvestri, & Jim Valentino,* each illustrating every panel in which their respective characters appear!

LOBO: HIGHWAY TO HELL #1 (OF 2)

Scott Ian (W); Sam Kieth (A)

(11/4 DC SEP090145 $6.99)

What's the Scoop?

The fact that Lobo is hellbound is probably no surprise to anyone—but most people assumed that journey would wait until after his death. However, Satan's not that patient...

Why Should You Care?

Heavy metal star *Scott Ian* of Anthrax makes his comics debut with this two-parter, and that means that a lot of metalheads are going to be searching for this bad boy.

MARVELOUS LAND OF OZ #1 (OF 8)

Eric Shanower (W); Skottie Young (A)

(11/4 Marvel SEP090381 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A young boy named Tip and a wooden man named Jack Pumpkinhead set off on a journey through the strange realm of Oz, where they cross paths with the Tin Woodman, the Scarecrow and other foes and friends.

Why Should You Care?

Everyone knows *The Wizard of Oz*, but the second novel—the only one in which Dorothy plays no part—is going to be fresh territory for all but the most devoted Oz fans.

POWERS #1

Brian Bendis (W); Michael Avon Oeming (A)

(11/25 Marvel SEP090495 $3.95)

What's the Scoop?

Homicide detectives Christian Walker and Enki Sunrise are back in action... and right off the bat, we discover some shocking revelations about Walker's past.

Why Should You Care?

After too many months of stop-and-start publication, *Powers* is back on track with a new number one and a commitment from Bendis & Oeming to keep the book coming on a monthly basis!

STRANGE #1 (OF 4)

Mark Waid (W); Emma Rios (A)

(11/4 Marvel SEP090457 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

He was once the Sorcerer Supreme... but now that title has been stripped from him and he's looking for another path to fulfillment and enlightenment. Unfortunately for him, that path is going to be circuitous and dangerous for both him and his new student!

Why Should You Care?

Stephen Strange has been a part of the Marvel Universe since the earliest days of the Marvel Age—and now, thanks to *Mark Waid*, he's about to get a mystical new lease on life!

SUPERGOD #1 (OF 5)

Warren Ellis (W); Garrie Gastony (A)

(Avatar SEP090628 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Think a world filled with superpowered beings would be a good thing? Think again! As it turns out, a superhuman arms race might prove to be far deadlier than anything else the human race has ever seen!

Why Should You Care?

Warren Ellis deconstructs the superhero saga, then rebuilds it as something dark, twisted, and ugly... as if you were expecting anything different!

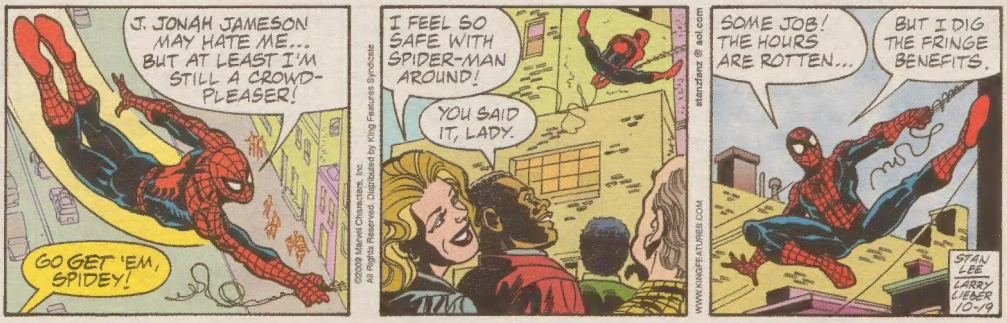
TALISMAN: ROAD OF TRIALS #1

Stephen King, Peter Straub, Robin Furth (W); Tony Shasteen (A)

(11/18 Del Rey SEP090775 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Young Jack Sawyer is about to learn some hard truths about his father's death, and about the real nature of the mysterious realm he once called The Daydreams. Now it's time for him to reclaim his identity as Travellin Jack and make his first foray back into The Territories, where monsters lurk and an unbelievably precious prize awaits.


J. JONAH JAMESON MAY HATE ME... BUT AT LEAST I'M STILL A CROWD-PLEASER!
GO GET 'EM, SPIDEY!
I FEEL SO SAFE WITH SPIDER-MAN AROUND!
YOU SAID IT, LADY.
SOME JOB! THE HOURS ARE ROTTEN...
BUT I DIG THE FRINGE BENEFITS.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-19
©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
standanz @ aol.com
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM

Why Should You Care?

The epic collaborative fantasy by *Stephen King & Peter Straub*—a story almost as big as the ***Dark Tower*** saga—comes to comics, adapted by former King assistant (and ***Dark Tower*** comics co-writer) *Robin Furth*—and that's enough to guarantee that it remains true to the King-Straub novel.

USAGI YOJIMBO HC: YOKAI

Stan Sakai (W/A)

(11/18 Dark Horse JUL090054 $14.95)

What's the Scoop?

Usagi faces the monsters and demons of Japanese folklore when he tries to help a desperate woman find her kidnapped husband. Fortunately, he's joined by a demon queller who seems helpful in stopping the invasion... but things aren't always as they seem when the supernatural is involved!

Why Should You Care?

Stan Sakai presents his first-ever original ***Usagi Yojimbo*** graphic novel, a hand-painted full-color original produced to commemorate the rabbit ronin's twenty-fifth anniversary.

VICTORIAN UNDEAD #1 (OF 6)

Ian Edginton (W); Davide Fabbri (A)

(11/18 Wildstorm/DC SEP090202 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are accustomed to using their prodigious brains to solve challenging cases—but the dead who have returned to life in Victorian London have other plans for those brains!

Why Should You Care?

Sherlock Holmes. Zombies. Talk about two great tastes that taste great together!...

F'YI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

1000 COMIC BOOKS YOU MUST READ SC

(Krause SEP091066 $29.99)

Tony Isabella offers an overview of comic book history with this guide to the best the medium has to offer from the eighty years, along with addictive commentary.

ART OF STEVE DITKO HC

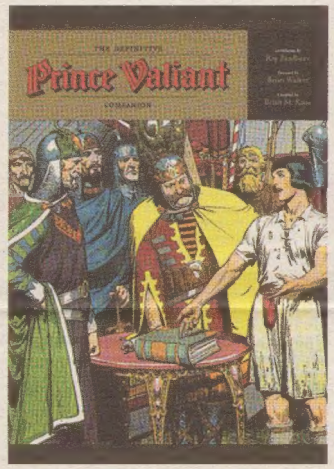
(IDW SEP090893 $29.99)

This large-format hardcover beautifully showcases Ditko's work, supplementing the many reproductions of original art with essays by *P. Craig Russell, John Romita,* and *Jerry Robinson,* plus an all-new introduction by *Stan Lee.* This is the perfect companion book to *Blake Bell's* must-read Ditko biography from 2008.

ART OF TONY HARRIS: ART & SKULLDUGGERY HC

(Desperado SEP090791 $49.99)

Celebrating his 20 years in the industry, *Tony Harris* joins with Desperado to offer complete retrospective of his career, with character and concept notes from his journals, sketchbook and design art, personal photos, and, beautifully reproduced art. And if you've ever seen any of Desperado publisher *Joe Pruett's* art volumes, you know why we consider all of 'em to be must-haves.



DEFINITIVE PRINCE VALIANT COMPANION HC/SC

(Fantagraphics SEP090830 & SEP090831, $39.99/$24.99)

An expanded version of this hard-to-find collector's item that offers background material, rarely seen art, interviews, and more—including *Hal Foster's* final interview, a look at Foster's artistic influences, and an introduction by *Ray Bradbury.* The artistic highlight is a sixteen-page color section of strips, scanned and digitally restored from the original engraver's proofs for the best quality.

OUR SENTENCE IS UP: SEEING GRANT MORRISON INVISIBLES SC

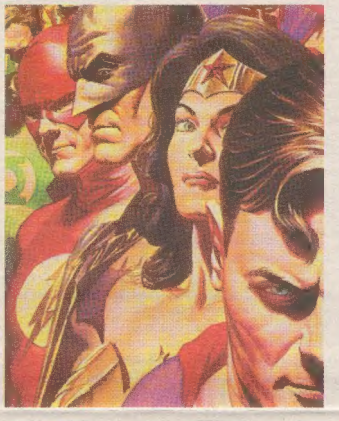
(Sequart SEP091084 $26.95)

Patrick Meaney & Timothy Callahan offer an insightful analysis of Grant Morrison's complicated and ambitious comics masterpiece.

SAL BUSCEMA: COMICS' FAST & FURIOUS ARTIST HC/TP

(TwoMorrows SEP090988 & SEP090987, $46.95/$26.95)

The life and career of the *other* Buscema brother, a legend of the comics industry in his own right, is explored through an exhaustive interview with the artist, complete with voluminous samples of his artwork.



Collected Cool: November's Best Reprint Volumes

ABSOLUTE JUSTICE HC

(DC APR090204 $99.99)

This deluxe oversized slipcased edition of *Alex Ross/Jim Krueger/Doug Braithwaite* saga includes 12-issue series along with a new cover, sketchbook session, and other bonus items.

CASPER FRIENDLY GHOST 60TH ANNIVERSARY HC

(Dark Horse AUG090031 $9.95)

80-page hardcover collects Archer St. John's first issue of ***Casper the Friendly Ghost*** from 1949, along with Harvey's premiere issue from 1952.

FAMILY CIRCUS LIBRARY HC VOL 1

(IDW SEP090891 $39.99)

The first two years of *Bil Keane's* classic family humor single-panel strip are collected in this volume that demonstrates why ***Family Circus*** remains one of the most beloved strips of the past fifty years.

GROO TREASURY TP VOL 1

(Dark Horse JUN090037 $24.95)

The zany barbarian-satire strip by *Mark Evanier & Sergio Aragones* is collected in its entirety in the first of several volumes. This book presents material from ***Destroyer Duck #1, Starslayer #5, Pacific Comics's Groo the Wanderer #1-#8, Eclipse Comics's Groo the Wanderer Special #1,*** and Epic's ***The Groo Chronicles #1-#6.*** Includes hard-to-find bits of Groo history along with new commentary and strips.

MORE THAN COMPLETE ACTION PHILOSOPHERS TP

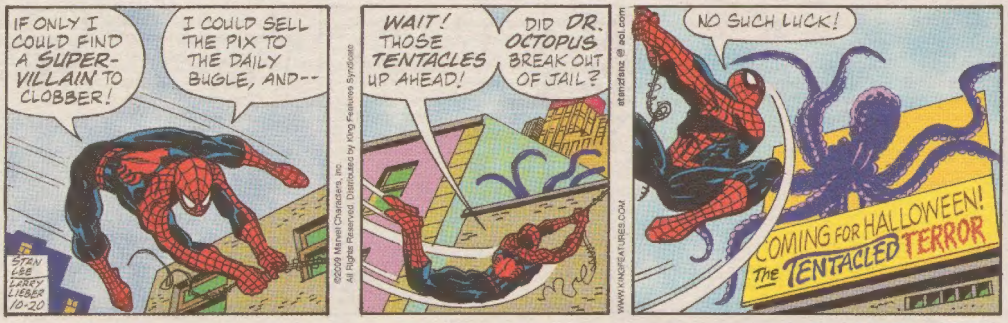
(Evil Twin SEP090822 $24.99)

How come my college philosophy classes were never this fun—or this concise? This hefty volume collects all the irreverently educational stories from the original nine-issue run, adding four all-new stories available only in this volume.

SUPERMEN: FIRST WAVE OF HEROES (1939-41) GN

(Fantagraphics SEP090826 $26.99)

Pay a visit to the beginnings of the Golden Age in this volume featuring early, rarely seen superhero tales by *Basil Wolverton, Jack Kirby, Jack Cole, Fletcher Hanks, Ogden Whitney, Lou Fine, Charles Biro, Fred Guardineer,* and *Dick Briefer.*

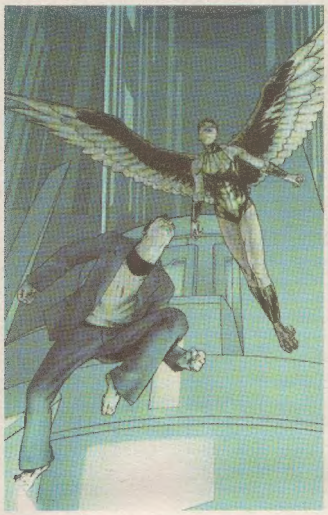

IF ONLY I COULD FIND A SUPER-VILLAIN TO CLOBBER!
I COULD SELL THE PIX TO THE DAILY BUGLE, AND--
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-20
©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
WAIT! THOSE TENTACLES UP AHEAD!
DID DR. OCTOPUS BREAK OUT OF JAIL?
dtrichstone@aol.com
WWW.KNUFKATURES.COM
NO SUCH LUCK!
COMING FOR HALLOWEEN! The TENTACLED TERROR

Check 'Em Out: Books You *Should* Be Reading

ARCHIE #603

(Archie SEP090598 $2.50)

Michael Uslan & Stan Goldberg continue the saga of the near-future marriage of Archie and Veronica—a story that offers all sorts of intriguing revelations regarding what the future holds for the Riverdale Gang.



AUTHORITY: THE LOST YEAR #3 (OF 12)

(Wildstorm/DC SEP090198 $2.99)

Way back in the distant past, shortly after the oceans receded and life appeared on Earth, *Grant Morrison & Gene Ha* began an ambitious year-long reboot of the ***Authority*** franchise... a reboot that lasted only two issues before dropping into the murk of history. Now, *Keith Giffen & Darick Robertson* pick up where Morrison & Ha left off.

CASPER & THE SPECTRALS #2

(Ardden SEP090613 $2.99)

Ardden continues its three-part all-ages revamp of one of the most beloved franchises in comics history—and for good measure, they're tossing in updated versions of Hot Stuff and Wendy the Good Little Witch!

FARSCAPE ONGOING #1

(Boom SEP090688 $3.99)

After months of sellout miniseries, Boom's decided it's time to make ***Farscape*** an ongoing part of their line. Secrets are revealed, alliances are made, and hearts are broken in this series written by the creator of the show, *Rockne S. O'Bannon*.

FEMALE FORCE #9: STEPHENIE MEYER

(Bluewater SEP090667 $3.99)

Bluewater, who made their biographical rep with looks at the lives of various political figures, takes a trip into the realm of the literary with this biography of the author of the ***Twilight*** novels.

TMNT #1 FULL COLOR ONE SHOT

(Mirage SEP090918 $3.25)

A quarter-century ago, *Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird* made history with this book about a quartet of martial-arts-savvy turtles. Now, the book that started the *TMNT* era is presented in color for the first time.

TRANSFORMERS ONGOING #1

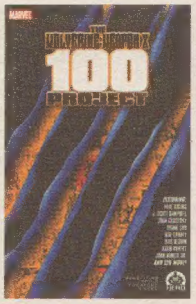
(IDW SEP090852 $3.99)

The Earth has been rebuilt, the Autobots are in hiding, and the next great era in the Transformers saga is about to begin as IDW launches the long-overdue ongoing ***Transformers*** series.

WOLVERINE WEAPON X 100 PROJECT TP

(Hero Initiative SEP090847 $12.99)

Okay, there ain't much to *read* here, but there's plenty of great stuff to look at. This special issue, produced in conjunction with Marvel, features the Hero Initative's 100+ original covers to ***Wolverine: Weapon X #1*** by a who's who of top talent.



Hot Commodities: November's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN FAMILY MULTI PART STATUE PART 2

(DC Direct APR090293 $150.00)

Second of three statue sets, this offering includes Robin and Catwoman, along with another portion of the Batman figure that can only be assembled from the three statue sets.

BLACKEST NIGHT BLACK LANTERN MARTIAN MANHUNTER ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct APR090302 $24.00)

BLACKEST NIGHT GREEN LANTERN JOHN STEWART ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct APR090303 $24.00)

BLACKEST NIGHT INDIGO LANTERN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct APR090304 $24.00)

BLACKEST NIGHT YELLOW LANTERN KRYB ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct APR090305 $24.00)

Four more additions to the line of DC Direct ***Blackest Night Action Figures.*** The ***Blackest Night Black Lantern Martian Manhunter Figure*** is sure to be the sizzler of the bunch, but ***Blackest Night*** completists will want 'em all.

GREEN LANTERN 1/4 SCALE MUSEUM QUALITY STATUE

(DC Direct APR090295 $325.00)

This upscale mixed-media statue includes fabric costume and a lantern that really lights up, as well as a Ch'p figure that can be removed from the asteroid-inspired base.

ROCKETEER STATUE

(Elektric Tiki JUL091495 $179.99)

Dave Stevens' pulp-era hero blasts off over a brushed metal, logo base, leaving a cloud of art deco smoke (evocative of the classic movie poster) in this 16" tall statue released just weeks after IDW's comprehensive ***Rocketeer*** collection.

twitter.com/csnsider

A WHOLE DAY OF WEB-SWINGING, AND NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-21
JUST WHEN I NEED PHOTOS TO SELL--
IT'S LIKE THE SUPER-VILLAINS ARE ON VACATION!
BUT, AT THAT MOMENT...
MR. SANDMAN, I PRESUME?
DINER
!
Colors: Ward Batty
©2009 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
stanzfanz @ aol.com

Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!